

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. The Examiner has required restriction to one of inventions I or II:

Group I: claims 1-6;

Group II: claims 7-11.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, applicants elect Group I, claims 1-6, drawn to a method of nitriding a metal ring made of maraging steel.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery, Registration No 28,380 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No.: 10/528,362

Docket No.: 4379-0176PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **OCT 29 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James M. Slattery

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